

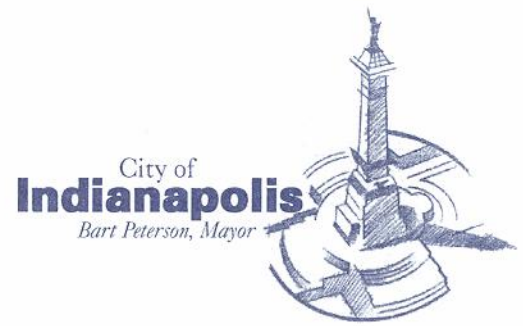
**For Immediate Release**

Saturday, June 24, 2006

**Contact Information**

Justin Ohlemiller, [317] 327-3690

Margie Smith-Simmons, [317] 327-4669



## ***Revitalization of south side corridor gets major boost with \$8 million investment in infrastructure***

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Bart Peterson and members of the Gateway Business Alliance (GBA) today celebrated the grand re-opening of the East St./Madison Ave. corridor with a ceremonial ribbon cutting.

The event marked the completion of \$8 million worth of infrastructure improvements along the corridor stretching from the intersection of East St. with Lawrence St. to the intersection of Madison and Southern Avenues, which accommodates the travel of more than 31,500 vehicles every day. The enhancement of the corridor includes newly paved roads; additional traffic lanes; new storm sewers; repaired sidewalks; newly constructed, accessible curbs and ramps; and upgraded traffic signals.

Eighty percent of the \$8 million improvements were funded with federal aid, and the remaining funding came from local matching dollars from the city's Department of Public Works.

The major investment is an important step in the continued effort, led by the GBA in partnership with the city, the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center and Local Initiatives Support Corporation, to bring new businesses and investment to the East St. and Madison Ave. corridor.

"This significant investment in infrastructure is a great step forward in supporting the renewed vision of the south side," Mayor Peterson said. "I commend the GBA for their grassroots efforts to lead the charge in bringing new businesses and investment to the area and return the corridor back to its former glory."

The Mayor pointed to the GBA as a great example of the type of community leadership called for in the Great Indy Neighborhoods initiative, which outlined a renewed vision for neighborhood improvements in Indianapolis through community engagement and focused planning. The initiative includes a framework that integrates economic, physical and human development to improve the quality of life in Indianapolis communities.

"This is a great example of the public and private sectors joining forces to rediscover the "Miracle Mile" by leveraging resources to develop a 10-year comprehensive community development plan," said Jeff Cardwell, GBA board member.

The GBA is a collaboration of neighborhood businesses created to foster community and economic development on the south side.

The rebirth of the corridor includes the return of the "Miracle Mile Parade," first launched by C.B. Kendall in 1957, on Saturday, September 1, 2007 followed by a concert in Garfield Park.

For more information on the Gateway Business Alliance, please visit [www.GatewayBusinessAlliance.com](http://www.GatewayBusinessAlliance.com).